

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on May 28, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1-7, 11-14, and 16 are pending. Claims 8-10, 15, and 17-20 are cancelled by the applicant.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by applicant on July 22, 2008. The applicant has agreed and authorized examiner to incorporate claims 8 and 15 into the independent claims 1 and 11 respectively.

CLAIMS:

3. Please cancel claims 8 and 15.
4. Please replace claims 1, 11-14 as follows:

Claim 1. A method, comprising: calculating a first part of a message authentication function by a first processor; calculating a second part of the message authentication function by a second processor; combining the results of the first and second parts into a message authentication code by the first or second processors; using the message authentication code to authenticate data; and calculating the message authentication code using the message authentication function on a data set, wherein the message authentication code can be used to authenticate a record that comprises the data set.

Claim 11. A system, comprising: a first processor configured to compute a first part of a multi-part message authentication function; a second processor in communication with the first processor, the second processor is configured to compute a second part of the message authentication function; wherein the first part of the message authentication function is based on the contents of a record and the

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second part is based on a data key, wherein the data key is inaccessible by the first processor and the record contents are inaccessible by the second processor; wherein the first processor receives the record from a third processor, computes the first part of the message authentication function using contents of the record, and sends the result of the first part of the message authentication function and a message authentication code in the record to the second processor.

Claim 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the message authentication function is used to authenticate data transmitted between the first processor and the third processor.

Claim 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the second processor combines the message authentication function parts and provides the combined message authentication function result to the first processor to permit the first processor to authenticate the record with the combined message authentication function result and provide the authenticated record to the third processor.

Claim 14. The system of claim 11 wherein the first processor receives the second part from the second processor and encodes a record with the second part and transmits the encoded record to the third processor.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7, 11-14, and 16 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Please see applicant's appeal brief filed May 28, 2008 and the telephone interview summary on July 22, 2008.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanhnga (Tanya) Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-3858.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The central fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

/Thanhnga B. Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2135

TBT

July 22, 2008